

Smuggling at Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi

4180. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:

SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Indira Gandhi International Airport is being used to smuggle out narcotics and spurious drugs and also large amount of foreign exchange is being brought in and taken out of country with the active connivance of custom officials;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Some cases of smuggling of narcotics and spurious drugs and foreign currency have been detected by the field formations under the Customs Department including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) during the last three years, i.e., 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 at Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi. However, in none of the cases connivance of custom officials has been noticed. The details of the cases detected are as follows:

Year	Value of foreign currency seized (Rs. in lakhs)	Quantity of narcotics and spurious drugs seized (heroin and spurious drugs) (in kgs.)
1998-1999	351.29	18.672
1999-2000	408.00	33.803
2000-2001	288.03	2.965

(c) All the field formations under the Customs Department including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence are alert and vigilant to detect and prevent any attempts of smuggling of contraband goods including narcotics and spurious drugs and foreign currency. Specific

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RAJYA SABHA

measures taken to check smuggling of narcotics and spurious drugs at I.G.I. Airport, New Delhi include screening of passenger baggage, courier parcels & mail bags by Baggage X-ray Machines, rummaging of aircrafts, catering trollies etc., deployment of sniffer dogs, etc. A special Narcotics Cell has been created and highly advanced IONSCAN Machine has been installed at I.G.I. Airport, New Delhi to add more teeth to the efforts to detect and prevent narcotics smuggling.

Income Tax from Private Schools

4181. SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA:

SHRI K. M. KHAN:

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating to bring the mushrooming number of public schools under the income tax net;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the income tax will be levied during the assessment year 2001-2002; and

(d) if so, the revenue likely to be generated from these public schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) "No proposal is under consideration of the Government for levy of new taxes and/or reduction of exemptions available to public schools. Public schools, however, are required to pay income tax as per provisions of law unless their income is specifically exempt under section 10(23C) or section 11 of the Income tax Act."